The Ford International Weekly

THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT

Published by

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO.
Dearborn, Michigan

HENRY FORD, President.
C. J. FORD, Vice President.
E. B. FORD, Secretary-Treasurer.
W. J. CAMERON, Editor.

Twenty-first Year, Number 25, April 16, 1921.

The subscription price in the United States, its dependencies, Cuba, Mexico and Canada is $1.50 a year, payable in U. S. funds; foreign countries, subscription rates on request. Single Copy, Ten Cents.

Entered as Second-Class Matter at the Post Office at Dearborn, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To receive your copy without interruption, please observe the following:

1. Notify us at least two weeks in advance.
2. Give both *old* and *new* address.
3. Write clearly.

The Mandates Don't Go

THE note in regard to the "mandates," addressed by Secretary Hughes to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, has the right ring. It is so luminously logical and so vigorously American that it should leave no doubt in the minds of either Americans or Europeans that the foreign policy of the United States is not lacking in backbone nor in brains. This without a trace of "big stick" belligerency.

Those who have followed the recent European attitude in regard to the United States must have been struck with its consistent disregard for American rights and American opinion. There has been something bordering on truculency in its assumption that our failure to ratify the Treaty of Versailles gave Britain, France and Japan a free hand to slice up the planet and hand out mandates without pretense of other consideration than their own selfish interests. The same game has been played to a large extent in the matter of the attempted imposition on Germany of indemnity terms, in which the outstanding feature is the requirement of a 12 per cent export tax to be handed over to the Allies and which would virtually transfer the German burden in large part to American consumers. This quite aside from a deliberate ignoring of American interest in world peace and economic stability, in fixing terms which every economist worthy of the name has declared to be impossible of collection, and then resorting precipitately to military measures for their attempted enforcement.

Now Secretary Hughes quietly and very distinctly and definitely reminds our recent comrades in arms that the United States surrendered no rights in the peace settlement by reason of its unwillingness to join the League of Nations. The United States is still one of the "principal Allied and Associated Powers," in favor of whom Germany, under the Treaty of Versailles, renounced all her rights and titles in her over-sea possessions, and Mr. Hughes points out that "a treaty to which the United States is not a party could not have affected those rights." As to the Japanese mandate in particular, Secretary Hughes makes the strong point that the United States not having entered into this convention, or into any treaty relating to the subject, it is manifest that there was no ground for conferring the mandate without the agreement of the United States, the League being "without any authority to bind the United States."

Altogether, the note is such a dignified and entirely proper assertion of American national self-respect as should jar the smug European assumption that we are to be fooled and browbeaten. And it suggests that an experience of a dozen years or so as a Justice of the Supreme Court may be a better preparation for the job of directing the nation's foreign relations than any amount of "diplomacy."

Helping the Farmer

IF THE farmer comes into his own, it will be a good thing not only for the farmer, but also for the merchant and the mechanic—for all of us. The hegira from the country to the city revealed by census returns has been felt in a vague way to be responsible in large measure for much of our present economic disturbance. There is an instinctive recognition that when the urban population of a nation exceeds that of the rural districts, an abnormal reversal of economic conditions is indicated. It is manifest that any considerable reduction of the number of food, wool and cotton producers with a corresponding increase in the consumption of these necessities means high prices.

It should not be less manifest that the abandonment of the farm for the factory, especially by young men, means that there is something radically wrong with the conditions of farm life and of farming as an industry. To hold the balance true between primary production from the soil and secondary production in manufactures, there should be approximate equality of profitableness and of attractiveness for the average man between the two classes of occupation.

The Federal Farm Loan Banks must prove an immensely valuable step in the direction of "evening up" the facilities of the farmer. On the technical side, the Federal Agricultural Department has proved its value in original scientific research work, as in stimulating interest in improved methods of tillage and disseminating important information.

But the worst drawback to agricultural progress and prosperity has been the farmers' dependence on middlemen for the distribution of agricultural products. It is cause for congratulation that the farmers themselves are waking up to the necessity of doing something more than growling in regard to this condition. Secretary Wallace, of the Department of Agriculture, has signalized his assumption of that post by an assurance that shows his appreciation of the need and his determination to help meet it. In a recent address at Chicago before the farmers' grain marketing committee, he declared that "There is just as much reason why the department should assist the farmer in developing methods of marketing his crops efficiently as that it should assist him in increasing his production."

Defective distribution is in itself a discouragement of production, especially when it results in prices to the ultimate consumer out of all proportion to those paid the producer. Improved distribution will prove beneficial all around.

China's Cry for Help

THE famine in Northern China faces humanity with a calamity which it would be difficult to parallel in piteousness or extent. It involves a population of 45 million people spread over an area of 575,000 square miles. More than 60 per cent of this population has been living in utter destitution for more than a year past; millions have already died and thousands are dying daily of starvation. Unless adequate relief is forthcoming, it is predicted that ten million people, most of them children of tender years, will starve to death during April and May.

It is fitting that, realizing the frightfulness of the emergency, almost the first act of President Harding should have been an appeal to the American people to give promptly and generously to the funds being raised to fight this famine. Here surely is the "one touch of nature" that "makes the whole world kin." We have been accustomed to thinking of China as far off and alien, perhaps. H. G. Wells in a recent article reminds us of the immensely important part played by improvement in transportation and communication when he suggests that 100 years ago it would have been easier to have governed California from Pekin than from Washington. This sense of distance bridged is reenforced by two contemporaneous events: one the President's approval of the consortium of American bankers for the financing of Chinese trade, and the other the announcement by the Department of Commerce that an American concern has made a contract with the Chinese Government for the erection at Shanghai of a wireless station larger than any now in existence.

"I shall never fully enjoy my loaf of bread," said Tolstoy, "until I know that no other human being on the planet suffers for lack of bread." Two dollars in Chinese money, about one dollar in ours, we are told, is sufficient to feed a Chinese adult for a month. This is about the price of an average business man's lunch. While the lunch we do without so as to give the price of it to feed these famine sufferers would probably do us more good than the lunch we eat ignoring them, it might also be possible that we would enjoy our lunch all the more if we made one of these little Chinese sufferers an "invisible guest." Not a single reader of THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT will deny that the saving of a boy or girl from starving would be worth much more than the price of a lunch if it were his own child that hungered. Well, all these hungry ones are our own kin. Let us not wait for a typhus epidemic to remind us of the fact. He gives twice who gives quickly.

Two Ideas of Americanism

IT IS noted by a writer in the *Country Gentleman* that in the boisterous babel of selfish interests that smote the ambient air during the Congressional hearing on the Johnson Bill for the temporary suspension of immigration, it was difficult to catch a word spoken for Americans or from the American standpoint. There were special pleaders for every other nation and certain business interests, not noted for eagerness to maintain American standards of living among their workers, asked for endless concessions to immigrants from these nations. Representatives of transatlantic steamship companies pleaded for the continuance of the immigration flood. With steerage tickets at $125—all immigrants look good to steamship agents.

Among all these special pleaders, stands out one who as a corporation attorney and Jewish leader may be said to have discharged a double function. Ostensibly representing merely the American Jewish Society, Louis Marshall assured the committee that no harm can come to America from immigrants and that the Jews and Southeastern Europeans are no less assimilable than the English, Germans and Scandinavians.

"There is nothing sacrosanct in the English language," said Mr. Marshall. "It is perhaps well to have an official language in the United States, and English may be as good as any other for that purpose. But you can get your Americanism just as readily through any other language." And he went on to explain that Americanism was "merely a realization of certain ideal family relations."

Mr. Marshall's definition of Americanism calls for sharp challenge. It is far from accurate from the American viewpoint. With all due respect for the advocates of Yiddish, there *is* something sacrosanct about the use of the English language on the continent of North America. For the race that settled this land, conquered the wilderness and established in it the homes and industries of a nation of one hundred million freemen, the English language must ever be regarded as a precious heritage.

Our own history, especially our recent history, shows plainly that it is sheer nonsense to talk of assimilation among peoples that continue to speak different languages. The American farmer cannot be expected to explain in Yiddish to his hired man how to cultivate corn or prune apple trees. Out of difference in language it is easy for misunderstanding and antagonism to arise.

Americanism certainly includes realization of the family relation, and something more than medieval concepts of that relation. From these the Anglo-Celtic race has developed, especially on this continent, the town meeting, that democratic basis of our whole system of "government of the people, for the people and by the people." And this system is several thousand years beyond the patriarchal government of the Judean plains, so tenaciously held on to by the "People of the Book." The counterpart of the town-meeting idea in individual partnership in the affairs of government and the political responsibility of every man and woman, is far, far removed from the absolutism of the Talmud and the Ghetto.

Speaking of the recent stream of immigration to these shores, W. J. Carr, of the Department of State, tells us that from 85 to 90 per cent of these newcomers "lack any conception of patriotic or national spirit, and that the majority of this percentage is mentally incapable of acquiring it."

There is no place in American life for unassimilable aliens lacking conception of Americanism and "mentally and morally incapable of acquiring it."

Service That Serves

POSTMASTER-GENERAL HAYS is to be congratulated on a move which is plainly in the direction of placing the people's post office on a basis likely to serve the purpose for which it was created. In assuring post office employes of the fullest consideration for their rights and for the conditions of efficient and satisfactory service, he takes his helpers into his confidence and gives the public promise of much needed betterment.

Experimentation, having for its objective the making of this great government department a "paying business," has been the excuse in the past for stinting the workers, and other cheese-paring economies. Whether or not postal revenues will show an excess of receipts over expenses is a matter that should be made entirely incidental to maintaining a high standard of public service. If the postal service is to keep step with advancing needs and methods in the business world, earning a reputation for dependability and furthering rather than hampering the people's facilities for prompt and rapid communication, especially in the dissemination of knowledge, it will become a profitable institution in the best sense.